

CHIEF OF INFANTRY READING LIST



As of April 09



HOME OF THE INFANTRY

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READING LIST

JUNIOR NCOs

SENIOR NCOs

LIEUTENANTS

CAPTAINS





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JUNIOR NCOs

Topic	Title	Author
Leadership	<u>Words for Warriors: a Professional Soldier's Notebook.</u>	Ralph Puckett
Leadership/Cultural Awareness	<u>Tunnels of Cu Chi.</u>	Tom Mangold
Leadership	<u>We Were Soldiers Once... and Young.</u>	Harold Moore and Joseph Galloway
Leadership	<u>To Hell and Back.</u>	Audie Murphy
Leadership	<u>Gates of Fire.</u>	Steven Pressfield
Infantry	<u>Boots on the Ground: Stories of American Soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan.</u>	Clint Willis
Leadership	<u>First Command: Paths to Leadership.</u>	Dwight Zimmerman



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Topic	Title	Author
Infantry	<u>Blackhawk Down: A Story of Modern War.</u>	Mark Bowden
Infantry	<u>G Company's War; Two Personal Accounts of the Campaigns in Europe, 1944-1945.</u>	Bruce Egger and Lee MacMillan Otts
Leadership	<u>Guardians of the Republic: A History of the Noncommissioned Officer Corps of the U.S. Army.</u>	Ernest Fisher
COIN	<u>The Bear Went Over the Mountain: Soviet Combat Tactics in Afghanistan.</u>	Lester Grau
COIN/Cultural Awareness	<u>Tactics of the Crescent Moon: Militant Muslim Combat Methods.</u>	H. John Poole
Leadership	<u>The Forgotten Soldier.</u>	Guy Sajer
Leadership	<u>Infantry in Battle: From Somalia to the Global...</u>	U.S. Army Infantry School
Leadership	<u>The Village.</u>	F.J. West



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COIN	<u>The Sling and the Stone: On War in the 21st Century.</u>	Thomas Hammes
Leadership	<u>Platoon Leader: A Memoir of Command in Combat.</u>	James McDonough
Infantry	<u>Not a Good Day to Die.</u>	Sean Naylor
Leadership	<u>Once an Eagle.</u>	Anton Myrer
Leadership	<u>Ambush Alley: The Most Extraordinary Battle of the Iraq War.</u>	Tom Pritchard
COIN/Cultural Awareness	<u>My Life is a Weapon: A Modern History of Suicide Bombing.</u>	Chris Reuter
Leadership	<u>Infantry Attacks.</u>	Erwin Rommel
Leadership	<u>The Killer Angels.</u>	Michael Shaara
Leadership/COIN	<u>The Village.</u>	F.J. West



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Leadership	<u>In the Company of Soldiers: A Chronicle of Combat.</u>	Rick Atkinson
COIN	<u>Lost in Translation: Vietnam – A Combat Advisor’s Story.</u>	Martin Dockery
Leadership	<u>This Kind of War: A Study in Unpreparedness.</u>	T.R. Fehrenbach
COIN	<u>THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN: Mujahideen Tactics in the Soviet Afghan War.</u>	Colonel A. Jalali and LTC L.W. Grau
COIN	<u>Learning to Eat Soup with a Knife: Counterinsurgency Lessons from Malaya and Vietnam.</u>	John A. Nagl
Leadership	<u>Counterinsurgency Warfare: Theory and Practice.</u>	David Galula John A. Nagl
Cultural Awareness	<u>The Arab Mind.</u>	Raphael Patai



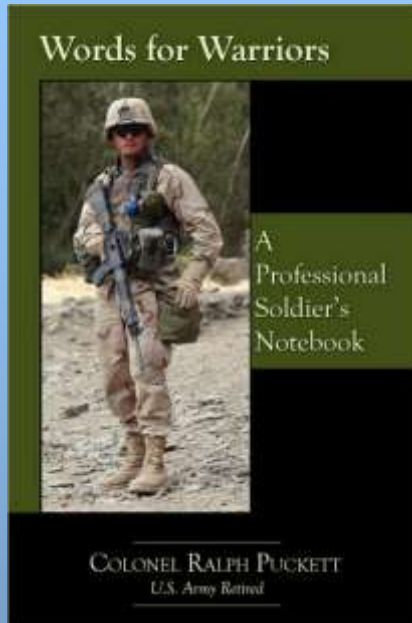
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Words for Warriors: A Professional Soldier's Notebook is about leadership—leadership on the battlefield and in the garrison. Colonel Ralph Puckett, a Ranger legend, shares what he has learned in more than fifty-eight years of training, leading, teaching, and mentoring Warriors. This book addresses tactics, training, administration, special staff, public relations, self-development, and myriad other subjects that are the responsibilities of commanders.



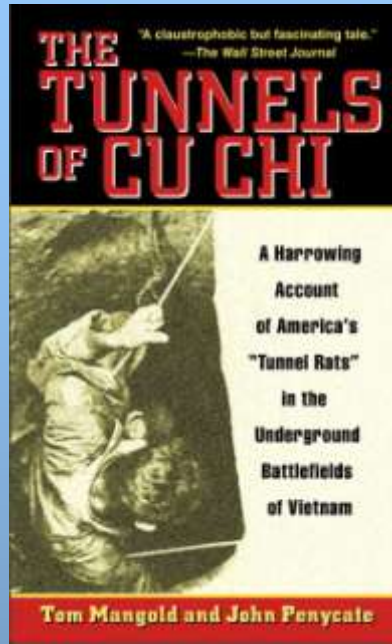
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The book, which includes interviews with both American “tunnel rats” and former VC inhabitants of these tunnels, is extremely readable, so our junior NCOs will actually enjoy the read. It provides the junior leader an opportunity to learn about a different culture, as it provides insight into the enemy that the U.S. faced in Vietnam, and a very different way of fighting war. Finally, it is an excellent study of leadership in the most intense of combat situations.



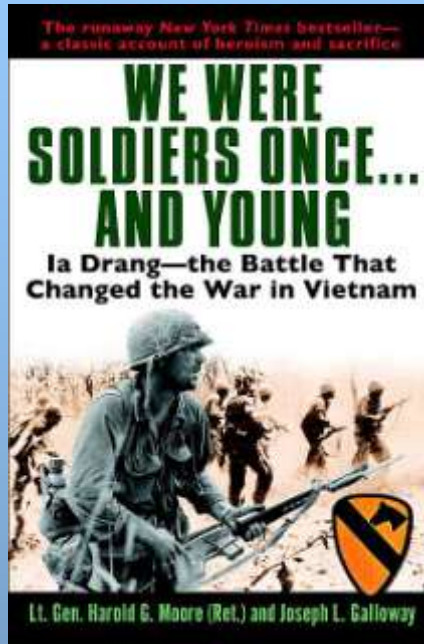
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General Moore and Mr. Galloway chronicle the development and implementation of the Air-Mobile concept and doctrine into the U.S. Army in Vietnam, and for this alone, this is a must-read for Infantry leaders. However, this book is so much more—it is the story of American Soldiers at their best and a study of leadership in action. It allows the reader a glimpse into the Warriors' hearts and the families who support them. Finally, the authors contrast two battalions—one which left the field of battle victorious and one which did not.



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This is the classic memoir of the most-decorated U.S. Soldier in World War II and the inspiration of the U.S. Army's Audie Murphy Award for outstanding sergeants. Written just after the war, the work is an unvarnished account of an under-aged, orphaned, American citizen soldier rising through the ranks from private through sergeant, as others recognize his natural leadership ability, to his reluctant acceptance of a battlefield commission. This is the military version of the rags-to-riches story of a young man whose comrades and commanders discover how he can effectively inspire and lead soldiers and exhibit incredible bravery in the bargain.



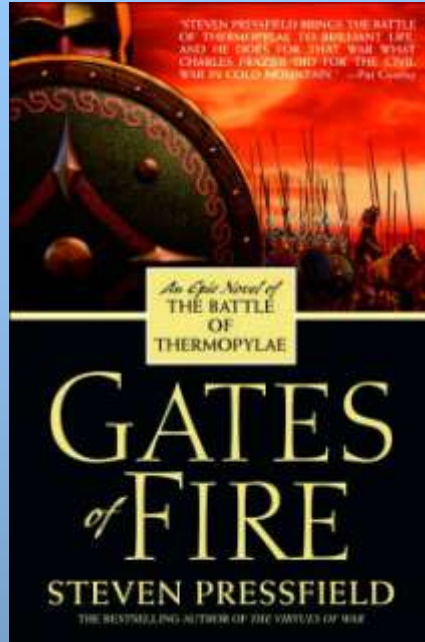
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This is historic fiction at its best—well-researched, well-written, a great story. *Gates of Fire* is the story of the Spartan King Leonidas, his 300 Spartans, and their 700 Thespian allies who fought to the last man in a successful delay in 480 B.C. at Thermopylae against a Persian army under Xerxes I which numbered in the hundreds of thousands. The defenders' stand delayed the Persians long enough for Athens to rally the forces which decisively defeated the Persians at Salamis and Plataea. This is a wonderful study of leadership and the warrior ethos and offers insights into the courage and determination of the Greek spirit that still lived in the mountain fighters who were to stall the Italian invasion of Greece during the Balkans campaign of World War II. Our junior NCOs will find this book worth the read.



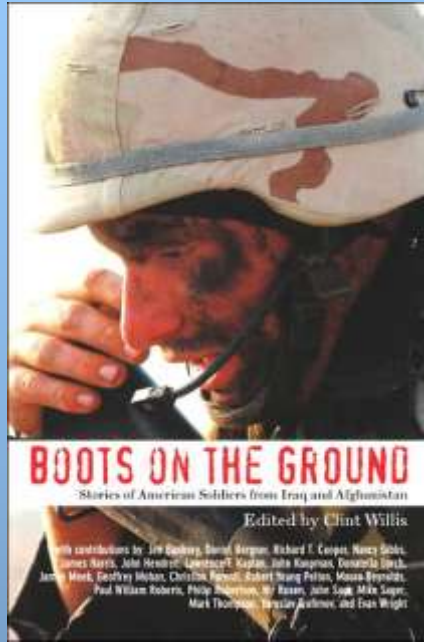
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This anthology of 22 accounts of men at war presents a cross-section of American, Canadian, and allied soldiers and reporters in small unit operations, and illustrates the importance of attention to detail in combat, where momentary inattention can have catastrophic consequences. This book does not explore grand strategy and national policy, but rather tells the story of the men on the ground, in their own words. It also offers a perspective on reporters, some of whom write objectively and accurately, while others let their own preconceived feelings color their writings.



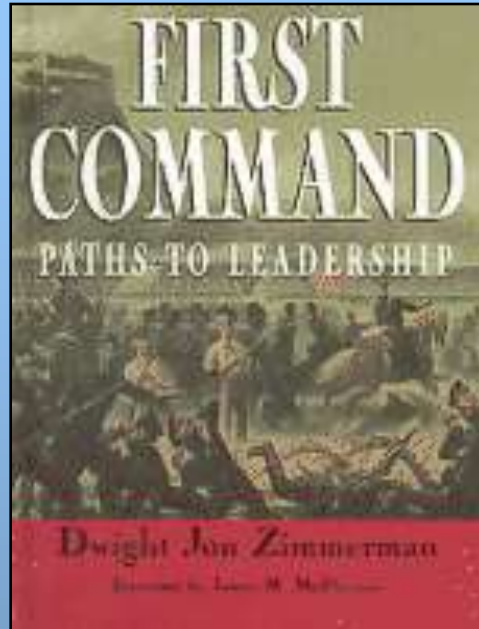
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If we're looking for a good way to introduce Soldiers to the study of military history, this is it. Containing 23 vignettes and biographical sketches on many of America's men and women who have distinguished themselves in uniform, *First Command* is more than a collection of biographies. Each vignette offers insights into the character traits and bold decisions that have distinguished them from their contemporaries and inspired others to follow their example.



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Bowden recreates for the reader combat in Mogadishu, Somalia, during Operation Restore Hope. Told from various perspectives, the generals in the operations center as well as the young medic struggling to save his friend, this book has been compared to Killer Angels and Shelby Foote's Shiloh.



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The updated diaries of two Soldiers in the same Infantry company in World War II. Both arrived as replacements: one as a Platoon Leader and the other as a private who became a Platoon Sergeant. The comparison between how a sergeant and an officer see the same event is striking.



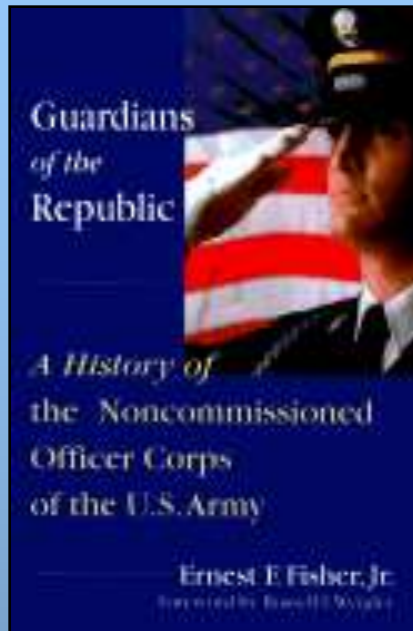
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One of the few histories of the U.S. Army's NCO Corps, the author provides insight into the NCO Corps' beginnings in Europe and the changes it went through in becoming the best in the world. The U.S Army's NCO Corps is unique, and that can only be appreciated by understanding U.S. Army experience.



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When the Communists took power in Afghanistan in 1978, they enjoyed little popular support and soon found themselves facing a general, bloody revolt. The Soviet Union invaded the mountain nation in December 1979 much the same as they had Czechoslovakia, but with vastly different results. This book of lessons learned and after-action reports compiled by the Soviets' Frunze Combined Arms Academy in Moscow offers insights into the Soviets' debacle in Afghanistan and sheds light on the determination and resourcefulness of mountain warriors against an army whose training and doctrine were predicated upon a war in Europe.



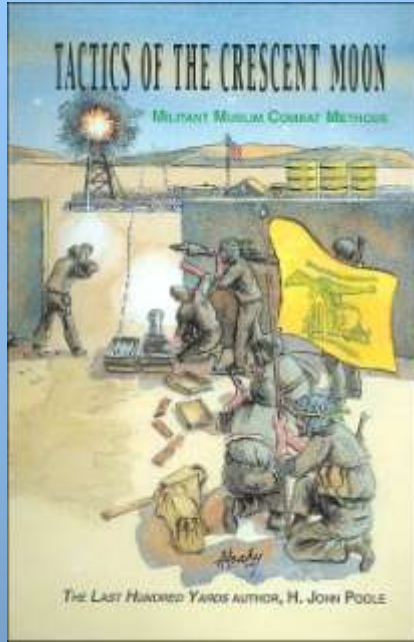
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This book provides insight and historical context for the “Militant Muslim,” and much of the information is worthwhile for the senior NCO or company commander. A word of caution is necessary, however: although this book provides context for understanding the terrorist tactics, the writer’s interpretation of the terrorists’ motivation is, in my mind, questionable.



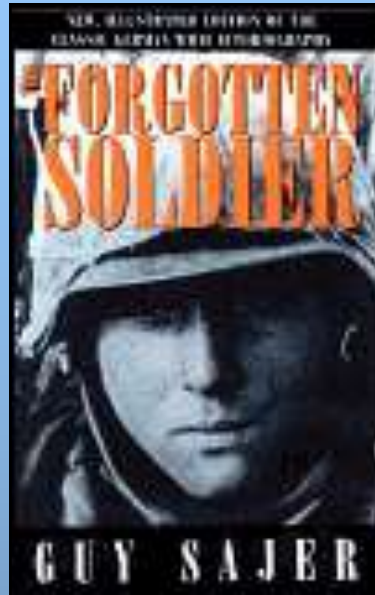
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This classic details the author's experience as a WWII German foot soldier in the Eastern Front. The author at first views the German invasion into the Soviet Union, through the naïve eyes of teenager, as a great adventure. However, as the invasion grinds to a halt, his perspective changes as he and his fellow soldiers struggle to survive, not only the constant artillery barrages, but also the harsh Russian winter and constant hunger. Sajer provides the reader with a ring-side seat to all of the great battles of the Eastern Front—from Kursk to Kharkov—but does so from the unique perspective of a young private. This is a must-read for leaders.



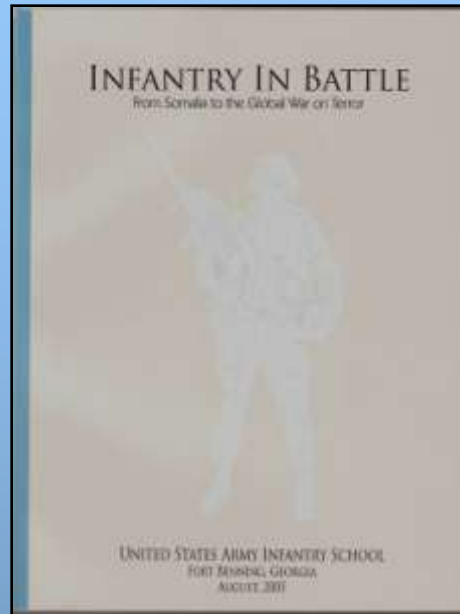
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This book, commissioned by the Chief of Infantry in 2005, provides the reader with first-hand accounts of Infantry actions in Somalia, Kosovo, Iraq, and Afghanistan and discussions written by the Infantry School's Small Group Instructors.



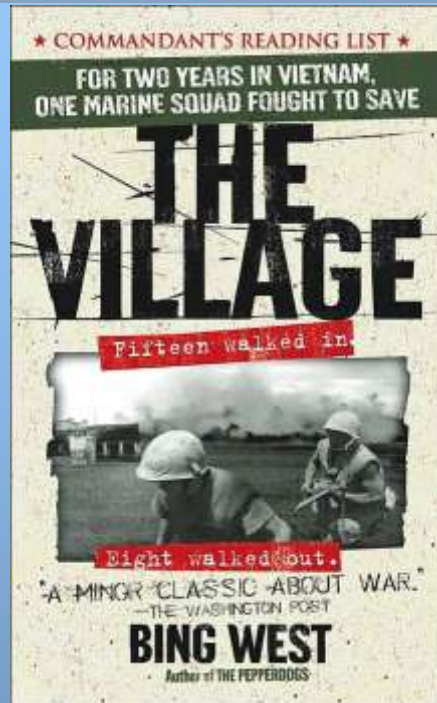
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This is a very readable story of a Marine squad that worked with South Vietnamese 'militia' to provide security for a small village outside Chu Lai airbase in 1965-1967. The book describes the complexities that Americans faced while conducting counter-insurgency in a foreign, culturally alien land; thus it provides insights that are as applicable now as they were at the time of its 1972 publication date. It is also a good book about leadership and cohesion of small, independent units.



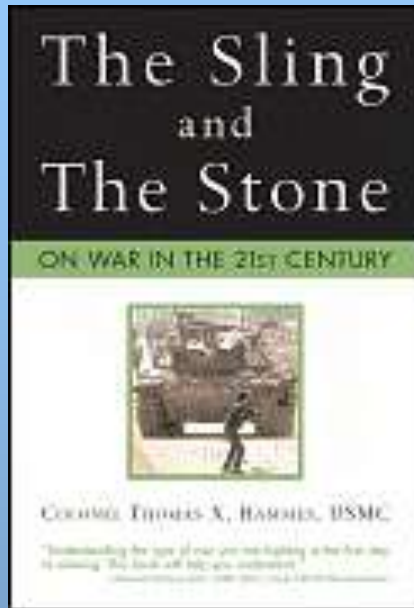
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The best current description of so-called “Fourth Generation Warfare.” Though simplistic in descriptions of the types of modern warfare and dismissive of the positive role of technology in America’s military strength, this is a good primer for those new to modern insurgency.



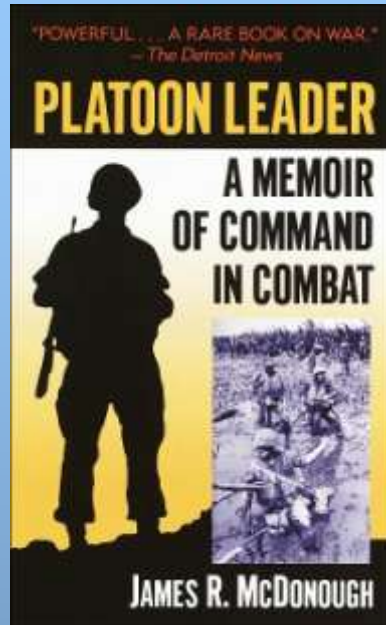
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Action-packed and well-written, this book could easily be billed as a best-selling novel, but the lessons the reader draws from reading it convinces him that this is the real deal—not a work of fiction. James McDonough earned his commission from the United States Army Military Academy at West Point during the turbulent 1960's. After graduation, he marries; completes the requisite Infantry training at Fort Benning; and meets his first platoon in the Republic of Vietnam. LTC McDonough's rich descriptions and accurate portrayal of leadership in combat make this a great read.



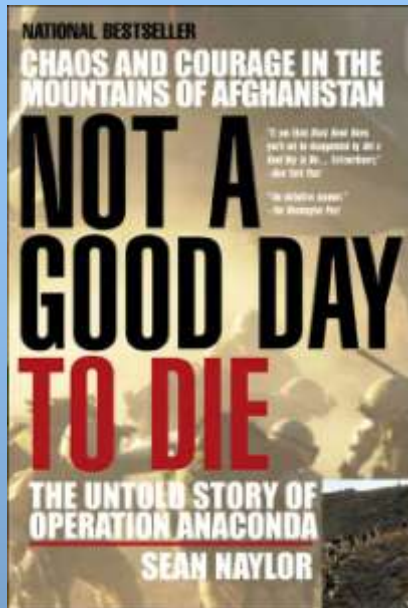
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In this *New York Times* bestseller, award-winning combat reporter Sean Naylor reveals how close American forces came to disaster in Afghanistan against Al Qaida-after easily defeating the ragtag Taliban that had sheltered the terrorist organization behind the 9/11 attacks.

At dawn on March 2, 2002, over 200 soldiers of the 101st Airborne and 10th Mountain Divisions flew into the mouth of a buzz saw in the Shahikot Valley. Believing the war all but over, U.S. military leaders refused to commit the troops and materiel required to fight the war's biggest battle-a missed opportunity to crush hundreds of Al Qaida's fighters and some of its most senior leaders. Eyewitness Naylor vividly portrays the heroism of the young, untested soldiers unprepared for the ferocious enemy they fought; the mistakes that led to a hellish mountaintop firefight; and how thirteen American commandos embodied "Patton's three principles of war"-*audacity, audacity and audacity*-by creeping unseen over frozen mountains into the heart of an enemy stronghold to prevent a U.S. military catastrophe.



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Once an Eagle follows the careers of two officers—one a “grunt’s grunt” and the other a politician whose career always comes first—through both the European and Pacific theaters of WWII to Vietnam War. Although an excellent wartime novel, with vivid descriptions of combat, this book is much more; it is a study of leadership, character, service, courage, selflessness, and honesty.



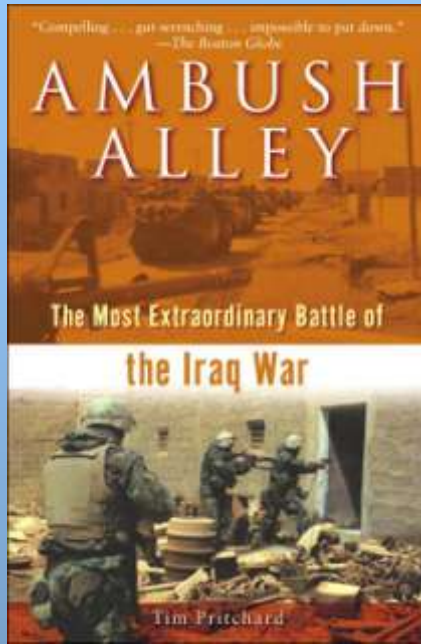
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This edge-of-your-seat account of Marine infantry in a 24-hour urban fight in Nasiriyah, Iraq, is the most gripping account of urban warfare since *Blackhawk Down*. *Ambush Alley* deals with casualties from friendly fire, convoys ambushed after a wrong turn, actions of an enemy with a seemingly inexhaustible supply of ammunition, and the heroic efforts of Marines to rescue survivors of an ambushed convoy. The book offers insights into the bitter, determined enemy mindset that we see in insurgents today.



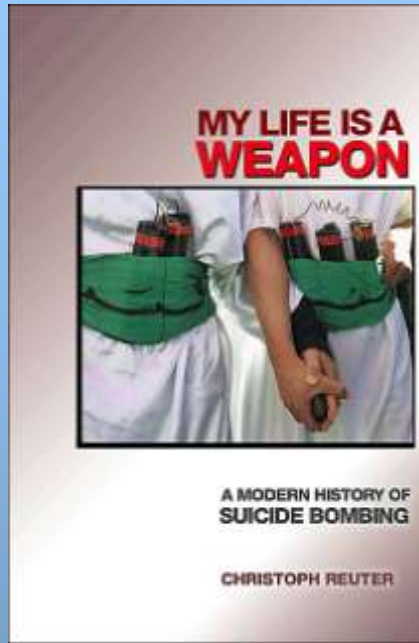
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This is a must-read for all who seek to understand what motivates a suicide bomber. The book is based upon eight years' research in the spawning ground of bombers, from Lebanon into the Palestinian Territories. The author's point is that they fit no pattern and may come from any walk of life or social background. The brutality of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards' use of children in the war with Iraq underscores the mindset we must fight. This is not a pleasant read, but is a necessary one.



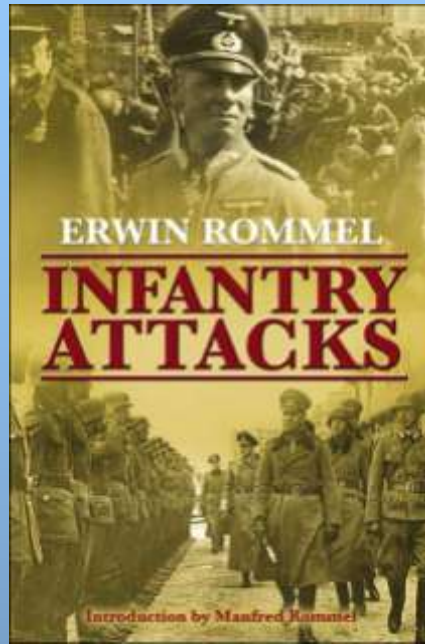
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This 2006 reprint of Rommel's classic book contains accounts of the World War I combat actions which Rommel experienced as an infantry officer. He discusses actions against the French, the Rumanians, and the Italians, and his tactics and techniques employed in the on the Italian Front are relevant to our operations in Afghanistan, and bear reading.



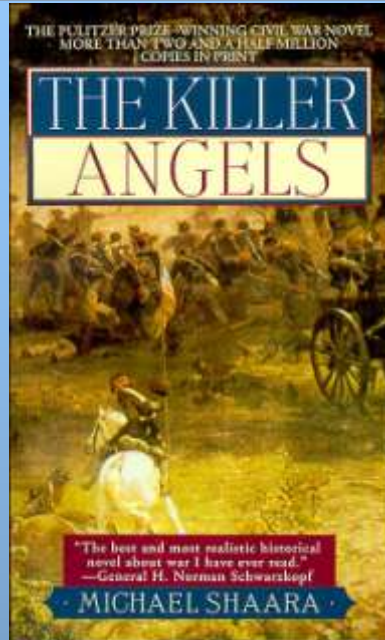
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The Killer Angels is a Pulitzer Prize winning fictional account of the battle at Gettysburg. Based on solid historical research, the book takes a close look at this monumental struggle from the perspective of the key participants on both sides who directly influenced the outcome. Filled with penetrating portraits of men such as Lee, Longstreet, and Chamberlain, it brings to life the passions that drove these men and the reasons for the critical decisions they made during this decisive battle. Every soldier should read this book. Through the use of fiction based on historical research, the author succeeds in conveying the realities of war. After reading this book the soldier will appreciate that war is not a simple matter of foolproof plans and mathematical probabilities, but a wild, uncertain affair that hinges on tentative guesses, individual initiatives, and large measures of luck. (Review from the CSA's Professional Reading List)



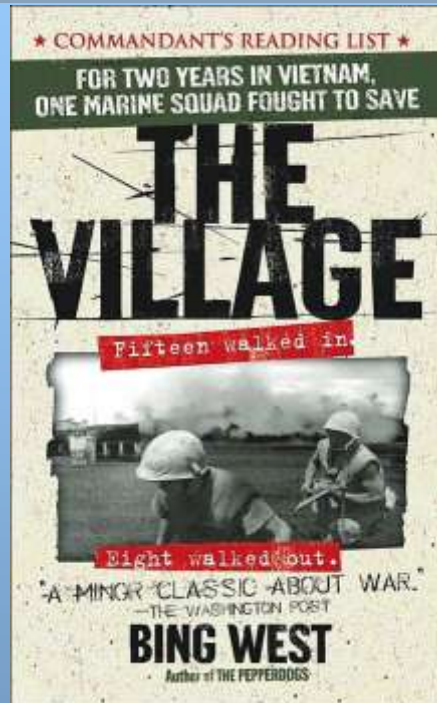
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This is a very readable story of a Marine squad that worked with South Vietnamese 'militia' to provide security for a small village outside Chu Lai airbase in 1965-1967. The book describes the complexities that Americans faced while conducting counter-insurgency in a foreign, culturally alien land; thus it provides insights that are as applicable now as they were at the time of its 1972 publication date. It is also a good book about leadership and cohesion of small, independent units.



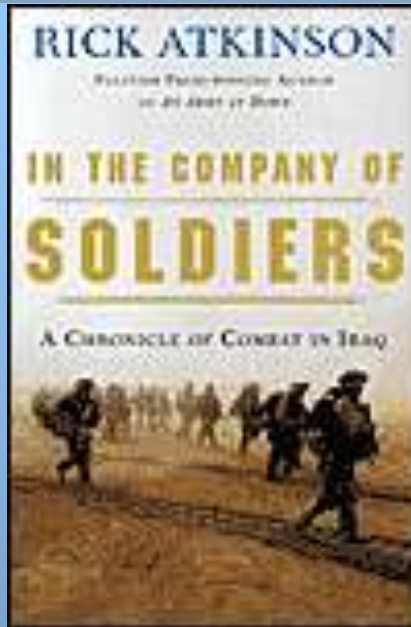
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Atkinson's portraits of military leadership are compelling, balanced, and nuanced; they reflect professionalism, a keen sense of responsibility for the 17,000 lives in the command, and constant reevaluation of optimal deployment of the unit's assets. The author draws upon his notes from the frequent battle update briefings he attended with the HQ staff, material from personal interviews conducted in the field, and supplementary data from "after action" reports to which he had access following his return to the States. This is a candid, well-paced work by a writer with an appreciation for the region's culture and geography. It certainly gives an insight to what modern warfare is like from a general's point of view in a horrible environment.



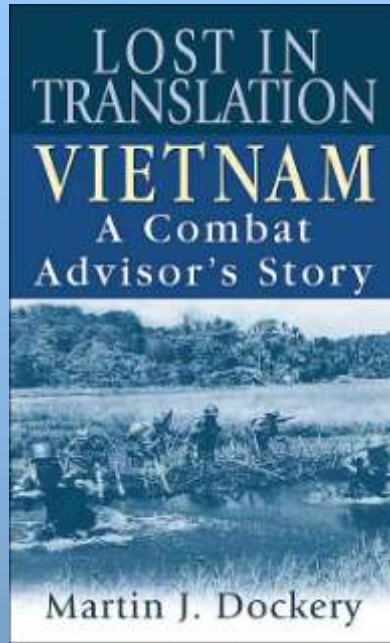
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As we set about the business of nation-building, we find ourselves working ever closer with host nation government and civilian agencies, much as we did in Vietnam. This short paperback offers insights into working with a foreign army when you have no actual command authority and have to rely upon tact and persuasion to accomplish your mission. This a fast read, and can add a few more suggestions for dealing with the dilemmas advisors face.



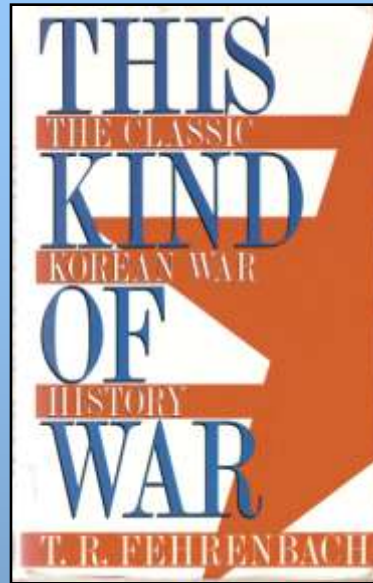
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This is the ultimate story of a nation's lack of military preparedness. Writing from the perspective of the small unit leader, Fehrenbach weaves two intertwining themes. One theme provides a bluntly told narrative history of the Korean War, including explicit descriptions of what happens when small units fight against overwhelming odds. The second provides a historical social-political-military context against which the Korean War plays out without closure. This is a book for every leader because it exposes critical issues not yet resolved in the U.S. regarding how to produce a military that will continuously be on guard and ready to protect a public that wants only to live in and dream of a peaceful world. (Review from the CSA's Professional Reading List)



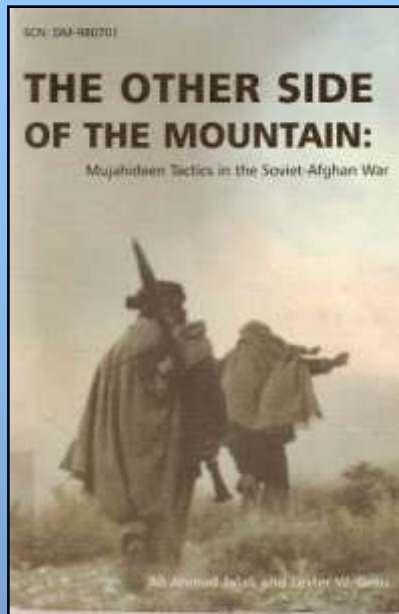
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This is actually a three-volume study of operations and actions of the Afghan Mujahideen resistance fighting against the Soviet Forces in Afghanistan 1979-1989. When the Soviets invaded Afghanistan few realized how long the fighting would go on and that it would end with the Soviets being forced into a humiliating retreat. The Other Side of the Mountain contains accounts of numerous actions fought by the Afghan resistance, each account told by the Afghan commander who participated in the action described. These commanders, in the vast majority, were civilians who took up arms against the Soviets and developed the skills necessary to command guerrilla units. Most of these accounts are supported by a full page colored map that shows the topography, the locations of the attackers and defenders, movements, fields of fire etc. Each operation is analyzed to highlight the elements that caused the operation/action to succeed or fail. The techniques and experiences described apply not only to Afghanistan but also too many other parts of the world. These volumes are not just a history of a series of operations and actions but a manual on the conduct of guerrilla operations as well as what support and assistance such a campaign requires to succeed. (Review from Military Press website)



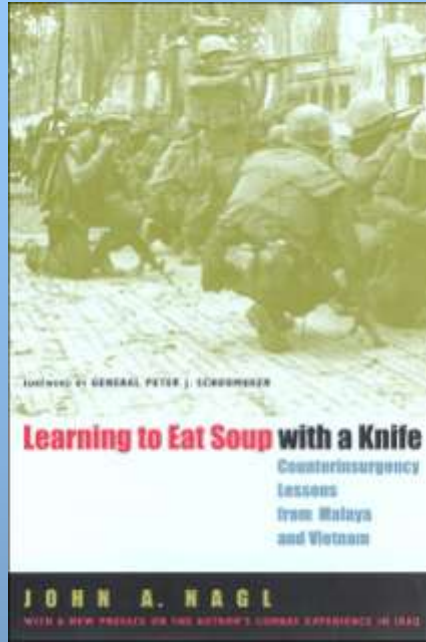
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This book examines organizational learning and its effect on the British Army's success against the insurgency in Malaya and the U.S. Army's failure against insurgents in Vietnam. After three years of unsuccessful operations in Malaya, the British adapted: it shifted its focus away from conventional warfare and toward efforts to stabilize the local government and popular support. The result was the defeat of the Malayan insurgency. In contrast, The American Army refused to adapt in Vietnam, insisting the insurgency would be defeated through conventional destruction of enemy forces, and this led to the insurgents' success in Vietnam. Nagl concludes the book recommending that the U.S. Army must encourage innovation and cultural flexibility to win the "small wars" of the future.



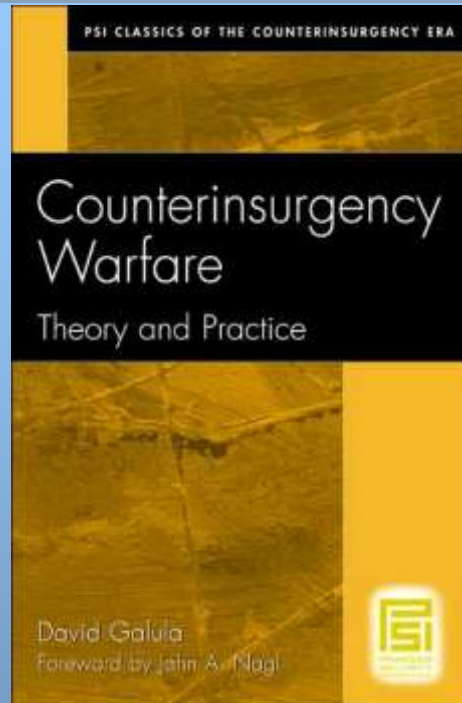
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This volume in the Praeger Security International (PSI) series "Classics of the Counterinsurgency Era" defines the laws of insurgency and outlines the strategy and tactics to combat such threats. Drawn from the observations of a French officer, David Galula, who witnessed guerrilla warfare on three continents, the book remains relevant today as American policymakers, military analysts, and members of the public look to the counterinsurgency era of the 1960s for lessons to apply to the current situation in Iraq and Afghanistan. With a new foreword by John A. Nagl, author of Counterinsurgency Lessons from Malaya and Vietnam



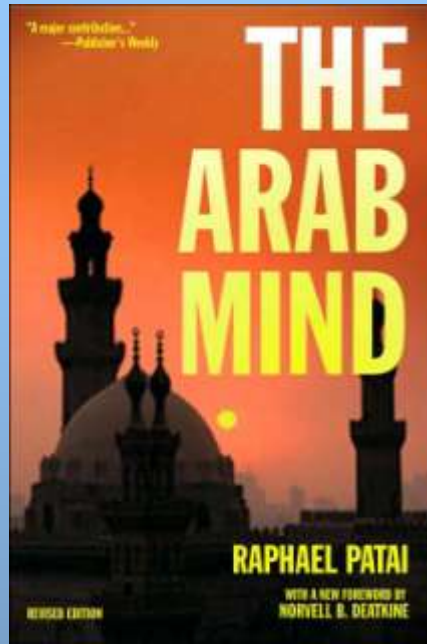
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One of the most comprehensive and literate volumes on Arab culture, this book is in its fourth edition since the 1973 publication. Patai weaves the writings and research of Arabs and non-Arabs explored during his three generations of life and study in the Middle East. Patai explains why it is important for Westerners to understand what motivates the “Arab Street” and Arab countries in the light of the pervasive motto: “I and my brothers against my cousin; I am my cousins against the stranger [the world].”